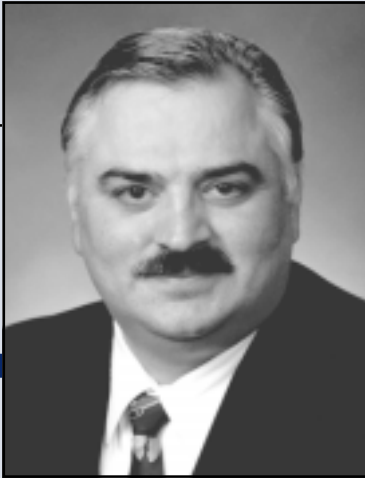


STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM CAMPBELL

(R) 2nd Legislative District



*Serving the citizens of
Graham, Spanaway,
Parkland, Eatonville, Orting,
Puyallup's South Hill,
Ft. Lewis, DuPont, and
part of Tacoma.*

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campbell_to@leg.wa.gov

**HOUSE COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Health Care – co-chair
Children and Family Services



A REPORT FROM THE 2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Friends,

Writing the state's new budget is the top priority this legislative session, but there are other important issues needing our attention. Besides addressing the transportation and energy predicaments on our hands, I want to improve prescription drug coverage for seniors and see a health care plan that small businesses can afford. Increasing penalties for those convicted of manufacturing methamphetamine also remains a personal goal.

Please remember, whenever a bill or a vote comes before me, I keep one thought forefront in my mind: Will this help maintain the quality of life for people in my district?

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative. If you happen to visit Olympia over the next few months, please make a point to stop by my office and say hello.

Sincerely,

Tom Campbell

INSIDE:

- Improving prescription drug coverage
- State agencies: live within your means
- We need roads, not buses
- Punishing meth manufacturers

TOWN HALL MEETING NOTICE

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 3**

2 – 3 p.m.
Graham Library
9202 224th E.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Parkland/Spanaway Library
13718 Pacific Ave. S.

HEALTH CARE: IMPROVING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS

Last year was “The Year of the Patient” for health care consumers. We passed a Patients’ Bill of Rights and approved reforms in the individual health care market. But our work is far from complete.

Prescription drug prices have soared more than 30 percent in the past seven years. They’re increasing at a rate much greater than inflation. **Senior citizens shouldn’t have to choose between groceries or prescription drugs.**

The governor has tried to address this through a club-membership discount plan he established without legislative consideration. That may sound OK, but there’s no money in his proposed budget to pay for those discounts. In other words, the full financial burden of the discounts falls on local drug stores. That’s incredibly unfair.

As co-chair of the House Health Care Committee, **I am deter-**

mined to forward legislation that assists seniors who are uninsured or otherwise unable to afford their medications.

Putting the burden on community drug stores could put them out of business, which would decrease seniors’ access to prescription drugs and cost jobs.

Another goal of mine concerns health care plans for small businesses. I know they only recently have

gained better access to health care plans. Now I want to keep the cost of supplying health care from wiping out a business owner’s earnings. I will work for approval of a health care

plan that will be available to — and hopefully very cost-effective and affordable for — businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

I also will continue advocating patients’ rights and access to information that will help with health care decisions. There were headlines recently about a hospital incident that had tragic consequences for a 78-year-old veteran. They remind us how much we need laws like the one I supported last year, which lets citizens see much more information about the quality of Washington state hospitals.



Rep. Campbell this year was named Republican chair of the House Health Care Committee.



STATE AGENCIES: LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS

Our state economy is showing signs of decline, which means less revenue for government to spend. November’s voter-approved initiatives have obligated the state to dedicate hundreds of millions of dollars to education. Throw in the governor’s proposed budget, which calls for spending \$425 million more than expected revenues over the next two years, and you have a recipe for a tax increase.

I will not support a tax increase to allow irresponsible spending. The last thing you and our economy need is a greater tax burden. I will defend the I-601 spending limit against attempts to amend it so government can spend more. It’s because of I-601 that state government has a healthy rainy-day reserve fund.

Also, I will not support raiding our reserves to help pay for transportation maintenance. Spending one-time reserves on long-term programs will lead our state down a path toward shortfalls and tax increases.

Thankfully, **the state’s budget challenges give us an opportunity to finally change the way government does business.** We have the chance to cut back on useless or wasteful spending, eliminate duplicate or outdated programs and hold state agencies more accountable for their budgets.

PUBLIC SAFETY: INCREASE PENALTIES FOR METH MANUFACTURERS

Methamphetamine manufacturing continues to be rampant in our area. As the “labs” used to produce it become smaller and more mobile, more innocent people are put at risk. It’s bad enough that the volatile chemicals used to “cook” meth could blow up the place next door. Now you could come across toxic meth-lab garbage during your next walk. Worse yet, there could be a meth lab — with its time-bomb potential — in the trunk of the car next to yours!

Meth creates hazardous situations, leads to more violent crime and affects our quality of life. It leaves us nothing but costs and a mess to clean up. I want to increase the penalties related to meth production to reflect the burden it puts on citizens and the enormous profits made by dealers. **I will support legislation to define meth as a violent drug, and make production and distribution of this new scourge a “strike” under the “Three Strikes, You’re Out” law.**

2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

OUR ROADS: GET PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS MOVING AGAIN

The 2nd District includes some of the fastest-growing areas of Pierce County. But **we don't have the transportation infrastructure to support growth.** Why? Because we have an administration that has refused up to now to admit we are facing a transportation crisis.

The urban-planner mentality that says, "if we don't build roads, they won't come" has failed. People keep coming to this area because it's a great place to live and work. We need roads for them – now. We need roads that get our kids to school safely. We need roads that will let people drive home at night without getting hit as they make a left turn.

The governor wants to sink \$9.6 billion into a transportation wish list, but he won't say where the state will get that money. The unspoken answer is a tax hike. But I know you are not in a mood for higher taxes until you know government is using every available dollar as efficiently as it can.

By session's end we must develop a long-term comprehensive plan that we can put before the people. It must be an affordable plan that will make our roads safer, our economy stronger and get us home to our families sooner each day.

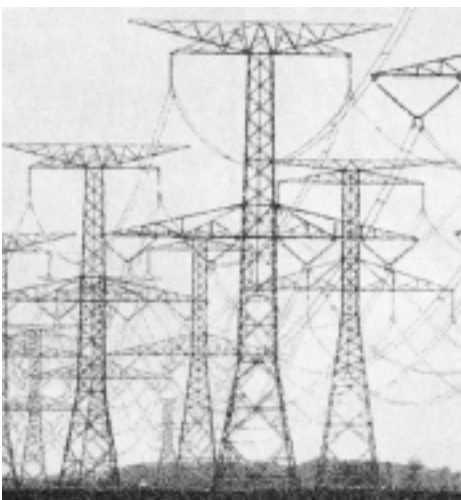


ENERGY: GIVE US A STABLE, AFFORDABLE SUPPLY

As a consumer and business owner whose utility rates have just gone up, I'm concerned by state government's energy strategy. Where was the governor when we were forced to sell our power to sunny, electricity-greedy California in the middle of winter, when our businesses and homes needed it more? And drawing down our reservoirs to produce more hydropower for California does nothing for our salmon recovery plans.

Now the governor has proposed steps that rely heavily on conserving energy. That's OK, but he misses the bull's eye. Washington's population has increased 21 percent in the past decade. Demand for electricity has steadily risen. But our state hasn't had any significant new energy production in 25 years.

Conservation isn't enough to fill the gap between supply and demand. The answer is clear: Washington needs more power.



I support a legislative package that will make it easier and more affordable for utility companies to build the new power generating plants we need. It also contains financial incentives that promote conservation and will give energy assistance to low-income families.

Yes, we need to work together to conserve more energy. But what our state needs most are sustainable energy sources – and bold leadership instead of excuses.

ENVIRONMENT: PUT LIMITS ON LANDFILLS

I am prime-sponsoring legislation (House Bill 1003) that will prevent solid-waste landfills like the one at 304th and Meridian, from **being modified or expanded** unless they comply with the **tougher landfill siting-standards law** I pushed through in 1999.

That law prohibits siting municipal waste landfills in an area of the state that receives 12 or more inches of rain per year, based on the most recent 30-year average. This legislation effectively means that **once the Meridian Road landfill is filled, it will have to be closed.**

REPRESENTATIVE
TOM CAMPBELL
SERVING THE 2ND DISTRICT





REP. TOM CAMPBELL • SERVING THE 2ND DISTRICT

MY GOALS FOR THE 2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- ✓ **A BUDGET THAT LIVES WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT'S MEANS**
- ✓ **BETTER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS**
- ✓ **A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH TO TRAFFIC RELIEF**
- ✓ **ANOTHER "STRIKE" FOR MAKERS OF METHAMPHETAMINE**



A REPORT FROM THE 2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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**REPRESENTATIVE
TOM CAMPBELL**

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